丸戸史明＝原作
守姫武士＝作画
深崎暮人＝キャラクター原案

Presented by
Fumiaki Maruto & Takeshi Moriki
Character Design : Kurehito Misaki

冴えない彼女の育てかた

ヒロイン

5

Saenai heroine no sodate-kata.
Volume Five

DRAGON COMICS AGE

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Volume Five

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TN NOTE: 'ICY TAIL' IS READ AS 'AISHITERU', MEANING 'I LOVE YOU' IN JAPANESE.

HE WAS TOTALLY UNCONSCIOUS, SO HYODO-SAN TOOK HIM HOME BY TAXI.
NO.
WHO CARES? SHE'S NOT A KID. BY THE WAY, HAS TOMOYA WOKEN UP?
'BEFORE I REALISED'?
GEEZ, SHE REALLY CAN'T DO THINGS WITH OTHERS, CAN SHE?
WELL? SHE DISAPPEARED BEFORE I REALIZED.
I DON'T WANT TO RIDE IN THE SAME CAR AS HER. IT'S A NO-BRAINER THAT CONVERSATION WITH HER WILL DRY UP IN A MINUTE.
NO WAY.
A-AHAH A...
IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED, YOU SHOULD'VE JOINED THEM.
...DID THEY REALLY GO TO HIS HOUSE?
DID YOU MAKE SURE SHE WAS ACTUALLY HEADING THERE?
EVEN I'VE HEARD SOME OF THE SONGS. ABOVE ALL, HYODO-SAN WAS VERY GOOD AT SINGING.
IT WASN'T SPECTAC-ULAR.
WELL, WHY DON'T WE LEAVE AS WELL?
YEAH... ANYWAY, THE LIVE PERFORMAN CE WAS GREAT, WASN'T IT?
I SAID, IT WASN'T ANYTHING SPECTAC-ULAR.
THE LAST SONG WAS ESPECIALLY GREAT~ ISN'T IT FROM AN ANIME THAT WAS RECENTLY AIRED?
"THAT SNOW PRISM"...
YEAH~ I HEARD IT'S A MASTERPIECE~ SOME FRIENDS OF MINE CRIED WATCHING IT.
THAT WAS CHEAP-

ILLUSTRATIONS AND SCENARIO ALONE, EVEN WITHOUT MUSIC, CAN MAKE PLAYERS CRY.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HER MUSIC.
SHE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE GOOD SONGS, RIGHT?

.....

WHAT ARE THEY?
THE FIRST IS, I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI.
I'VE ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED HER TALENT.
I JUST HATE THAT SHE'S A LUSTFUL SLUT WITH A ROTTEN PERSONALITY.

WHAT'S WRONG? DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?!
NO,
JUST BEING GLAD ABOUT THINGS.
TWO THINGS, ACTUALLY.

A GIRL IGNORANT ABOUT PROGRAMMING STEPPED FORWARD TO DO THE SCRIPTING - HAS TOMOYA INFLUENCED YOU TOO MUCH?
YOU'RE THE SAME.
YOU'RE NOW SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING THE GAME, AREN'T YOU?
THE OTHER THING IS...
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE WINTER COMIKET. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF GAME WE'LL MAKE IN THE END.
I'M NOT MAD! I'M JUST IN A HURRY!
AH~ WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU MAD ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NO, NEVER MIND. LET'S HURRY, THE TRAFFIC LIGHT WILL CHANGE SOON!
.....
SAWA MURA-SAN?
HEY YOU...

MEGUMI!
HEY, HURRY UP!
...ERM,
YOU MEAN WHEN YOU TALK TO AKI-KUN?
I THINK IT'S OKAY TO BE AN OTAKU WHEN IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, ER, US TOGETHER.
H-HEY... I ADDRESS MY CLASS-MATES WITH "-SAN" BECAUSE I'M FAKING AN "OJOU-SAMA" CHAR-ACTER.
BUT THE REAL ME IS NO HIGH-CLASS LADY, JUST A PLAIN OTAKU.
...B-BUT DIDN'T YOU JUST-
AH, ERM... IT WASN'T REALLY A SLIP OF THE TONGUE.
EH ...
SEE? THE LIGHT'S RED NOW BECAUSE YOU WERE SLOW.

TL NOTE: CALLING SOMEONE BY THEIR FIRST NAME WITHOUT ANY SUFFIX SHOWS A CLOSE INTIMACY BETWEEN PEOPLE.

I SEE. SO IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL TSUNDERE, RIGHT?
LIKE I SAID! YOU'VE BEEN INFLUENCED BY THAT IDIOT TOO MUCH!
...YEAH, THANKS, MEGUMI.
WELL, IT'S NOTHING.
HM, CAN I CALL YOU ERIRI TOO?
"GO TO HELL LATER", HUH...?
EH?

GOOD JOB, SHI-CHAN~
THE FIRST VOLUME WAS EX-CELLENT!
SORRY I ENDED UP BEING SO LATE, MACHI-DA-SAN.
Don't worry! I convinced the editor in chief that we'd release two volumes back to back to make up for the delay!
...ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
...GEEZ, OF COURSE, I WAS KID-DING, BUT I'M VERY SERIOUS WHEN I SAY THAT YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE IF THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS AGAIN.
. .Please forgive me because I will never do it again
Well~ Actually, I'm not really worried~
Didn't you say you'd finished writing the scenario for TAKI-kun?
YEAH, FOR NOW.

Anyway, since you're done with the game's scenario, will you concentrate on the novel for the time being?
...THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO DENY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
But now that it's complete, I want you to consider your work your new boyfriend!
Well, Shi-chan, you're still young, so there are times that you're impeded by men.
...I NEED TO MAKE FIXES AND TWEAKS.
A LITTLE ...
JUST ...
I'M GOING TO, BUT...
SHI-CHAN?
.....
Really? Are you certain?
...DIDN'T I SAY "TWEAKS"?
H-HEY DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE GOING TO SLACK *AGAIN?*

HOW ABOUT THE MC'S COUSIN WHO SUDDENLY MOVES INTO HIS HOUSE?
SHE KEEPS WALKING AROUND IN A LEWD GETUP INSIDE THE HOUSE, SO HE HAS A HARD TIME KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE.
HUH? WHAT?
Ah, by the way, Machida-san, speaking of the new heroine in the second book. .
I'm sure the readers will panic once again after the blonde twin-tailed girl from the first book!
Sounds great! A cliché unlike your style!
...AS I THOUGHT, PEOPLE ARE SICK AND TIRED OF CLICHÉS, RIGHT?

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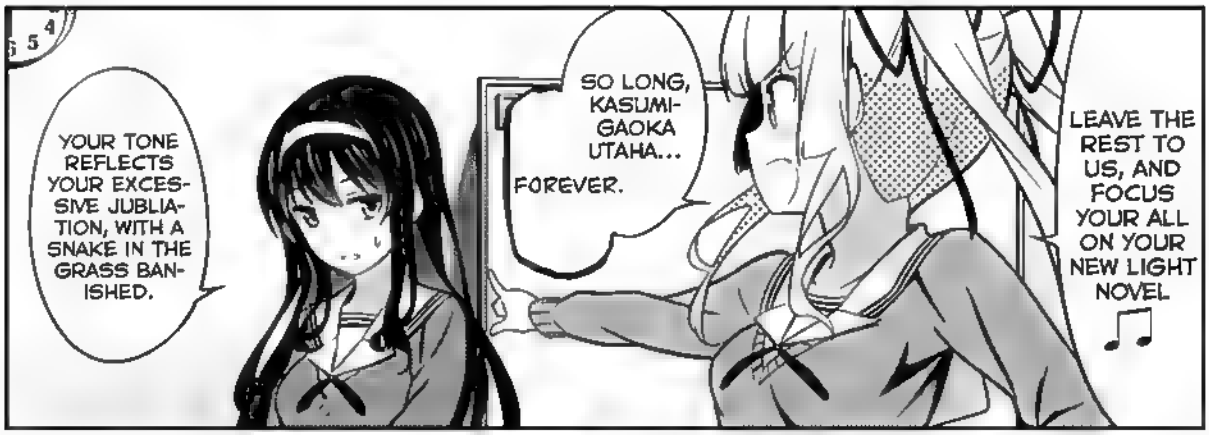
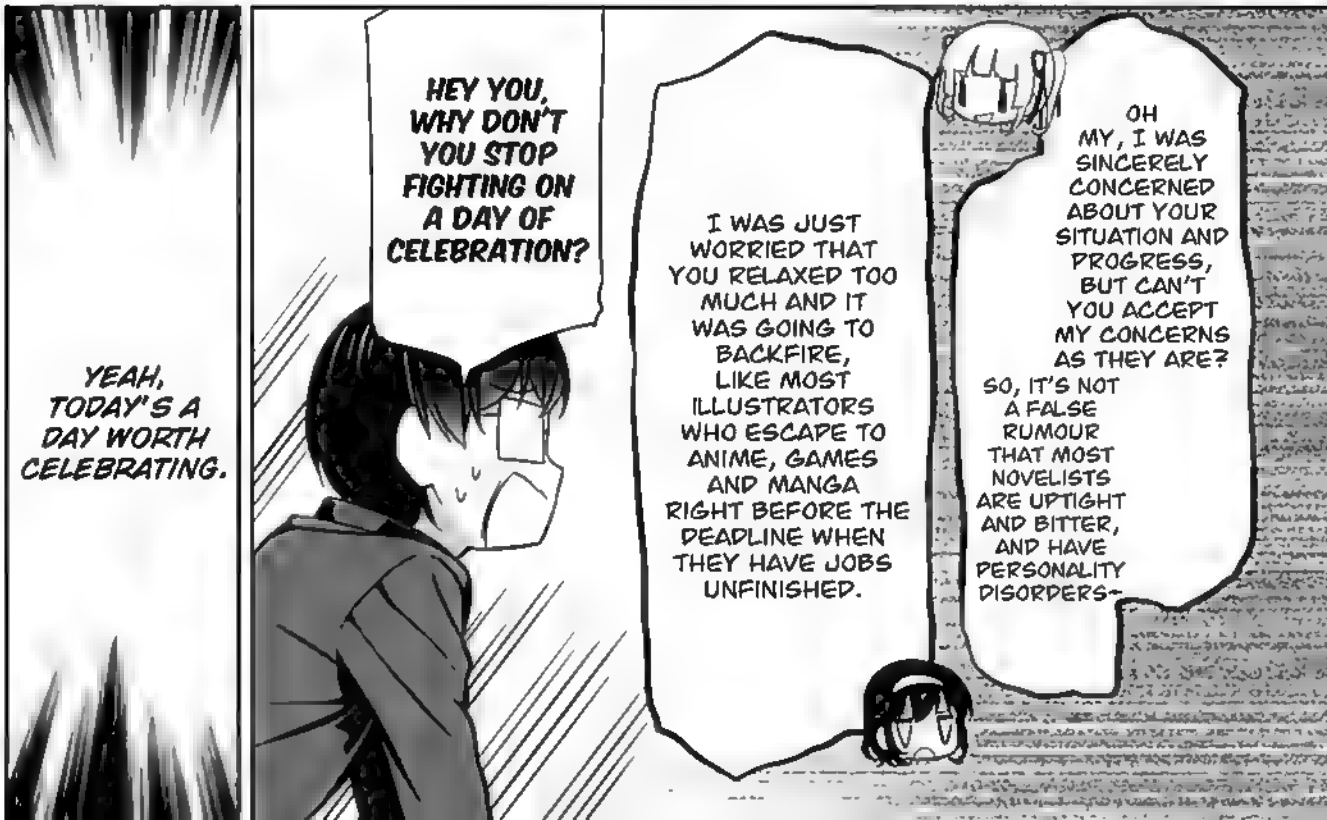
AFTER SCHOOL -
TEXT: TOYOGASAKI SCHOOL FESTIVAL
TEXT: AUDIO/VISUAL ROOM
WELL THEN,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK TO THIS DAY, MISS SCENARIO WRITER~


YOUR TONE REFLECTS YOUR EXCESSIVE JUBILATION, WITH A SNAKE IN THE GRASS BANISHED.
SO LONG, KASUMIGAOKA UTAHA... FOREVER.
LEAVE THE REST TO US, AND FOCUS YOUR ALL ON YOUR NEW LIGHT NOVEL

I BET YOU'LL MISS THE DEADLINE IN A MONTH'S TIME, AND IN THE END BE BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS ON ALL FOURS, CRYING AND SNIFFLING.
SO WHY DON'T YOU STOP POKING FUN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?


YEAH, TODAY'S A DAY WORTH CELEBRATING.
HEY YOU, WHY DON'T YOU STOP FIGHTING ON A DAY OF CELEBRATION?
I WAS JUST WORRIED THAT YOU RELAXED TOO MUCH AND IT WAS GOING TO BACKFIRE, LIKE MOST ILLUSTRATORS WHO ESCAPE TO ANIME, GAMES AND MANGA RIGHT BEFORE THE DEADLINE WHEN THEY HAVE JOBS UNFINISHED.
OH MY, I WAS SINCERELY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SITUATION AND PROGRESS, BUT CAN'T YOU ACCEPT MY CONCERNS AS THEY ARE?
SO, IT'S NOT A FALSE RUMOUR THAT MOST NOVELISTS ARE UPTIGHT AND BITTER, AND HAVE PERSONALITY DISORDERS~

EVEN SO...
UTAHA-SENPAI HAS FINISHED WRITING ALL THE SCENARIOS!
IS IT REALLY OKAY, SAWAMURA-SAN? YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT COME CRYING TO ME FOR HELP BECAUSE YOU KICKED ME OUT AND SUFFERED ALL THE REPER-CUSSIONS.
THERE'S NO USE IN PROVOKING ME LIKE THIS.
WITH YOUR SCENARIOS FINISHED, IT'S AN UNMOVABLE FACT THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE IN THIS CIRCLE, SO BEGONE ALREADY, KASUMIGAOKA UTAHA -
NO, KASUMI-GAOKA-SENPAI~
HAA? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HOW COULD THAT EVER HAP-
HI~ TOMO!
TOMOYO
EVEN SO, THEY HAVEN'T STOPPED PICKING ON EACH OTHER!

M-MICHIRU?
GEEZ~ AS I THOUGHT, TOYOGASAKI IS SO FAR~ I WAS THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE SCHOOL, BUT IT'S ALREADY SUNSET WHEN I GET HERE.
I'VE WRITTEN A NEW SONG~
I CAME UP WITH A GREAT SONG LAST NIGHT!
I WANTED TO PLAY IT TO YOU SO BADLY, I COULDN'T WAIT.
HEY! MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHY DID YOU COME TO MY SCHOOL ON A WEEKDAY?
SFX: KNOW-IT-ALL
I'LL PLAY IT RIGHT NOW.
LISTEN WELL.
BUT WE'LL BE USING THE RECORDED VERSION FOR THE GAME, ANYWAY...
HOW CLUELESS OF YOU. A LIVE PERFORMANCE HAS A DIFFERENT IMPACT FROM A RECORDING.
CAN'T YOU JUST SEND ME AN MP3?
ちっ
ちっ

ひょい～っ
!
NOW~
DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF...

SFX: HOP

WON'T YOUR FATHER BE WORRIED IF YOU'RE HOME LATE?
... TCH!
I'M GRATEFUL YOU'RE HERE WITH A NEW SONG, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE ONCE YOU FINISH PLAYING IT, OKAY?

H-HEY, MICHIRU!
YOU SHOULD STAND UP WHEN YOU PLAY. OR AT LEAST SIT DOWN ON A CHAIR!
EH~ WHAT A PAIN~

W-WAIT, HYODO MICHIRU!
HOW DID YOU GET ALL THE WAY HERE? IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM?!
WHAT~ LET ME STAY IN YOUR HOUSE TONIGHT~YOU STILL HAVE MY PAJAMAS IN YOUR GUEST ROOM, RIGHT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, ERIRI CALLS OTHER PEOPLE BY THEIR FULL NAME ONLY WHEN-
MICHIRU'S STILL IN THE TOP CLASS FOR TRICKS AND AUDACITY, EVEN THOUGH HER GRADES ARE ALMOST FAILING.
...TCH!
AH~I SAID "I HAVE A JOINT SESSION WITH THE LIGHT MUSIC CLUB HERE," AND THEY JUST LET ME IN.
WHAT?!
ALSO, I'M HELPING YOU GUYS BECAUSE TOMO BEGGED ME FOR HELP, EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT INTERESTED IN OTAKU STUFF AT ALL. IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT A GOOD SAMARITAN?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I'M A MEMBER OF THIS CIRCLE JUST LIKE YOU. NO NEED TO BE SO COLD TO ME.
HUH? DID I SAY THAT TO ERIRI TOO?
NO, THAT'S NOT THE IMPORTANT THING ANYWAY.
I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT LINE!
SFX: TAP!

WH-WHAT IF OUR CIRCLE IS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF YOUR UNAUTHO-RISED ENTRY?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAPPEN.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF WE MAKE OUT HERE.
NO, REGARD-LESS OF WHAT SCHOOL THE GIRL IS FROM, IF THAT EVER HAPPENED, THE CIRCLE AND I WOULD BE DONE FOR.
A NON-OTAKU LIKE YOU MUSTN'T IMAGINE AN EROTIC-DOUJINSHI IN A SCHOOL SETTING LIKE THAT!
AND YOUR IMAGINATION IS TOO TWISTED, YOU ERO DOUJIN ARTIST.
THEN, CAN'T YOU JUST SEND YOUR ILLUSTRATIONS OR TEXTS BY EMAIL? WHAT'S THE POINT OF GATHERING HERE?
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE ...
WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL, AND OUR HOUSES ARE NEARBY...
SFX: BLUSH!
BY THE SAME LOGIC, I'M HIS COUSIN, YOU KNOW.
UGH!

k-kasumigaoka utaha~
...I did warn you, but I didn't really expect you to come crying to me for help.
Nobi and Doraemon.

SFX: WEEEEH

Hyodo-san.
!
I'm impressed by your passion, and I bow down to your determination to give it your all to help us despite our differences.
I'm not doing this for your sake~

Since I sincerely appreciate it, I don't want you to force yourself...
So please leave as soon as you're done playing.
Whoa! It's a world supercooled to a standstill, like that scene from White Album...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
THE DICTIONARY SAYS IT'S AN IDIOM USED WHEN SOMEONE DOES AS THEY PLEASE WITHOUT CONCERN FOR OTHERS.
"NONE OF MY BUSINESS"...?
...THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

I KNOW. I'M IN A BAND.
HYODO-SAN, LISTEN WELL.
CLUB IS BASICALLY A GROUP ACTIVITY.

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY,
IN THE TEAMS YOU'VE BEEN PART OF...
HAVE YOU EVER PRIORITIZED THE TEAM OVER YOURSELF?

YEAH, YOU SURE ARE IN A BAND...
AS A VOCALIST, THE IRREPLACEABLE MAIN ROLE, WHICH MEANS YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR WAY.

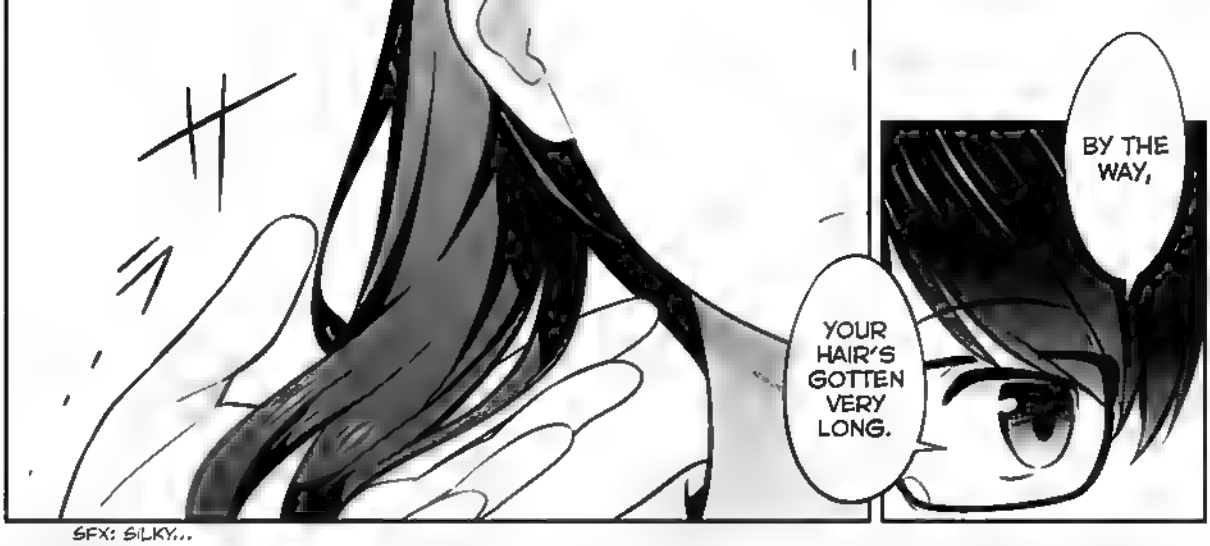
STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH,
SENPAI.

WHA...?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, A WRITER WHO MANIPULATES HER EDITOR AS SHE PLEASES, MOVING THE DEADLINE FOR HER PERSONAL REASONS.
AS THE VANQUISHED ILLUSTRATOR.
SAWAMURA-SAN, STOP BACKSTABBING SOMEONE YOU JUST BEGGED FOR HELP
TRUE, THESE TWO ARE A PERFECT DUO, EVEN UP TO HOW THEY INTERNALLY BREAK UP DURING A MATCH.

HEY KATOU, WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS DOING ON YOUR SMARTPHONE?
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME LATELY.
OH.

THIS WON'T END SOON.
I'D BETTER ESCAPE...

WELL, SUCH A POPULAR GAME ISN'T EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE NICHE DATING SIM WE'RE WORKING ON...
WELL, I'M PART OF AN OTAKU CIRCLE NOW
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD TRY THIS KIND OF THING.
MY GOODNESS!
I'M PLAYING PUZZLE AND DRAGONS.
LOOK.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PREDICTABLE AND STALE ANSWER!
NEXT MONTH WILL BE THE REAL DEAL.
IT'S OUR TURN.
WELL, ANYWAY, I'M GLAD THE SCENARIOS ARE COMPLETE.
I HOPE WE MAKE IT TO WINTER COMIKET.
WE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE IT...
WHATEVER IT TAKES.



SFX: SILKY...

YOU'VE EVEN GIVEN UP YOUR CHARACTERISTIC SHORT PONY TAIL.
WELL, ISN'T A PLAIN PONYTAIL, ERM, HOW DO I PUT THIS?
SOMETHING LIKE A MOE SYMBOL?
THAT WOULD BE SO IF YOU HAD ANY INTENTION TO CAPITALIZE ON IT.
IF YOU KEEP CHANGING YOUR HAIRSTYLE BEFORE YOUR CHARACTER IS STABILIZED, IT CAN'T BE A MOE SYMBOL.

SFX: FLIP

AKI-KUN, I DON'T MIND YOUR CHOICE OF YOUR WORDS WHEN YOU SPEAK TO ME,
BUT YOU'D BETTER STOP TOYING WITH MY HAIR.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR TURNING YOUR HAIR INTO A TAIL.
A MAN IS, YOU SEE, INCLINED TO PULL A LONG ROPE WHEN HE SEES ONE.
DON'T MAKE YOUR PERSONAL HABIT UNIVERSAL HUMAN NATURE.
IT'S ALSO YOUR FAULT YOU'VE GROWN YOUR HAIR LONG ENOUGH TO PULL LIKE THIS.
I'D RESTRAIN MYSELF IF IT WERE A SHORT PONYTAIL.
OOF!

SFX: FUWA FUWA FUWA

DID YOU KNOW, KATOU?
WHEN YOU HOLD SOME HAIR AGAINST YOUR NAIL AND RUN IT THROUGH YOUR HAND, IT CURLS UP.
...WHATEVER,
BACK TO THE TOPIC...
EVERYONE IS WATCHING US.

SFX: PISSED OFF

...WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S DOING PLAYING WITH A GIRL'S HAIR?
...IS IT REALLY SOMETHING A SELF-STYLED HEAVY OTAKU WOULD DO?
...EVEN A RIAJUU COUPLE WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO DO THAT.
SFX: SCARY
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEYOND WHAT YOU'D CALL "COMFORTABLE"?
DOES MORALS-KUN HAVE ANY RAISON D'ÊTRE WITHOUT MORALS?
HOW ANNOYING. IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES. SCREW CO-ED SCHOOLS...
N-NO, WAIT! IT WAS JUST...
A CONDITIONED RESPONSE TO PONYTAILED HAIR LIKE PAVLOV'S DOGS!
THEY'RE MISTAKING IT FOR A MAN'S DIRTY DESIRE! SO THIS IS HOW A MAN GETS FRAMED...
WELL~ DON'T WORRY~
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
K-KATOU...?

ERM, WELL,
THIS IS WHEN I'M SUPPOSED TO BLUSH...
SAY "D-DON'T JOKE LIKE THAT! WHY'D I GET INVOLVED WITH SUCH A LOWLY MAN?!" AND USE VIOLENCE AGAINST AKI-KUN, RIGHT?

SFX: TAKEN ABACK

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SHE DEALT WELL WITH THE SITUATION.
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE ME?!
YEAH, A LINE IN THE VOICE OF THE PATHETIC BLONDE MUGGLE.
AH~THAT'S SAWAMURA-SAN.
Ahahaha
U fu fu fu fu

HEY, UTAHA-SENPAI,
DO YOU WANT SOME-THING?
YES?

BUT A CREATOR NEEDS COM-PENSATION, RIGHT?
NOW THAT YOU'RE A CREATOR AS WELL, JUST FOCUS ON FINISHING THE GAME.

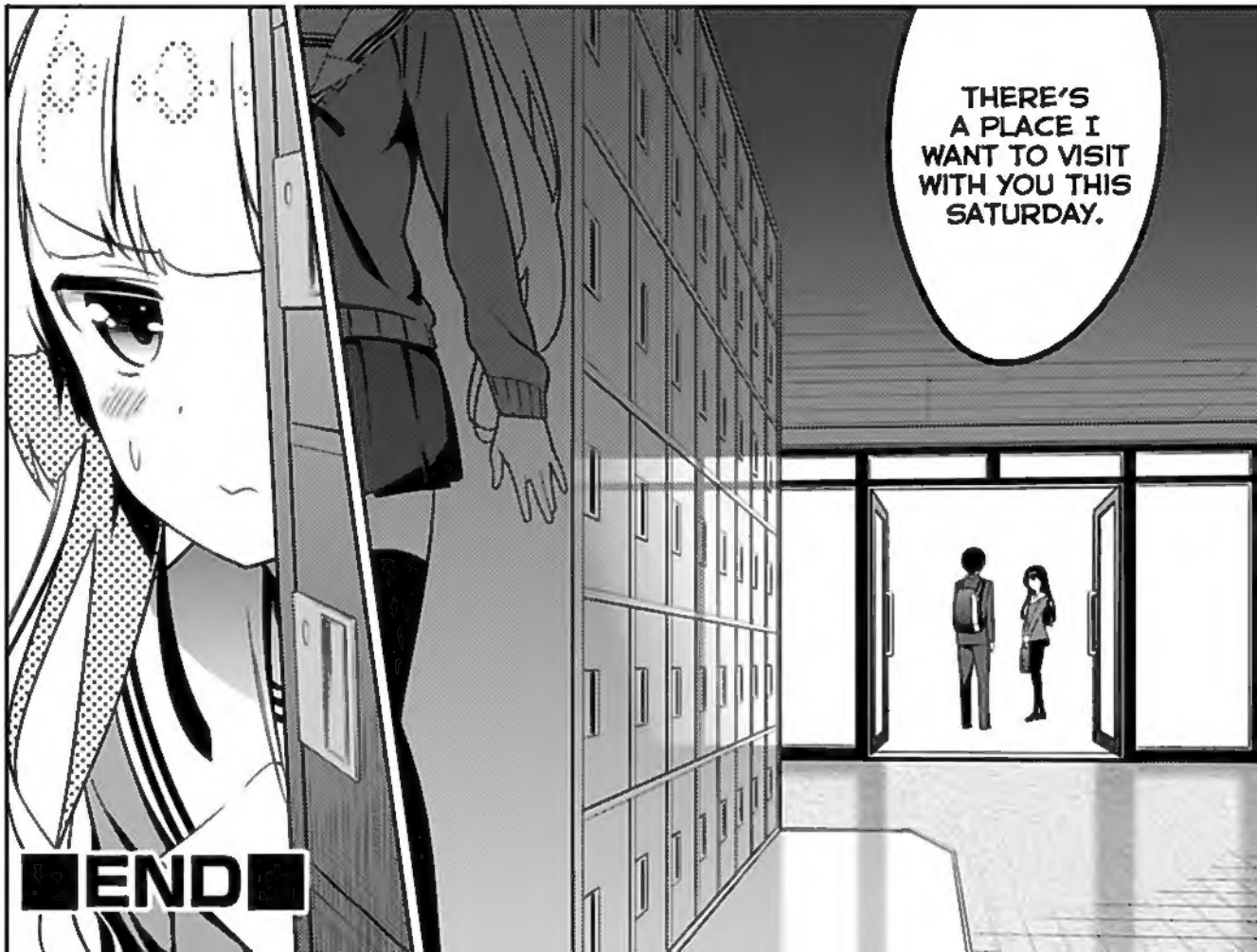
BESIDES, IT'S JUST A DOUJIN ACTIVITY.
IT'S OKAY. I JUST DID WHAT I HAD TO DO AS A CREATOR.

I WANT TO CELE-BRATE THE COMPLE-TION OF YOUR SCE-NARIOS.
I CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING TOO EXPEN-SIVE GIVEN THE CIRCLE BUDGET.
MORALS-KUN...

HEY! LIKE I SAID, OUR CIRCLE AND I WILL BE DONE FOR!
IF YOU BREATHE ON ME LIKE THAT, WHAT YOU JUST SAID SOUNDS SO OBSCENE! SO PLEASE STOP!
WHY DON'T YOU REPAY ME WITH "SOMETHING ELSE"?
IT WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING... EXCEPT FOR STAMINA.
SFX: BLOW

BUT YOU HAVE A POINT...
SFX: TURN

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT? I NEED A SERIOUS ANSWER.
I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN.
YOU SURE ARE HONEST ...
I'M SORRY BUT I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.
?
OKAY, THEN...


THERE'S A PLACE I WANT TO VISIT WITH YOU THIS SATURDAY.
END

SAENAI KANOJO NO SODATEKATA

BY: MARUTO FUMIAKI & MORIKI TAKESHI

CHAPTER 22

Brought you by:
CAT Scans &
Norway Scan

RAW PROVIDER: SHIRATORI
TRANSLATOR: ANONYMOUS PREFERRED
PROOFREADER: VOLANDUM
CLEANER: YABOKU
REDRAWER: PAP041
TYPESETTER: KRISTJAN
QUALITY CHECKER: VOLANDUM, KRISTJAN